



## Common Questions about the Spring 2011 ISTEP+

### What is ISTEP+?

- The Indiana Statewide Testing for Education Progress-Plus (ISTEP+) measures what students know and are able to do at each grade level in core academic subjects.
- Based on Indiana's Academic Standards, ISTEP+ provides a learning check-up designed to report mastery of grade-level standards and to signal whether a student needs extra help.

### When is ISTEP+ administered?

- The spring test was given in two parts. The Applied Skills Assessment, which includes essay and short-answer questions, was given from February 28 to March 9. The Multiple-Choice Assessment was administered from April 25 to May 4. Each school administered the assessment during the given windows.

### What's on the ISTEP+?

- Based on Indiana's Academic Standards, the spring ISTEP+ covers:
  - English/Language Arts in grades 3-8
  - Mathematics in grades 3-8
  - Science in grades 4 and 6
  - Social Studies in grades 5 and 7

### What results should I expect to receive?

- Every student tested receives a comprehensive *Individual Student Report* showing student performance in terms of Pass+, Pass or Did Not Pass.
- Families of students in all tested grade levels will have access to a copy of their student's short answer and essay responses. Contact your local school for more information.

### When should I expect to receive the results?

- Results for the spring 2011 ISTEP+ test are now available.

### What if I didn't pass?

- Students who did not pass ISTEP+ are entitled to extra help and instructional time to address any areas of need.
- Ask your teacher and guidance counselors about extra help in areas that you didn't pass.

### What if I have special needs?

- Several testing accommodations are available for students with disabilities or limited English proficiency, such as additional time and changes in test scheduling, format and setting.
- Talk to your parents and guidance counselors about the specific accommodations in your Individualized Education Program (IEP), Section 504 Plan or Individual Learning Program (ILP).

### **What if I have more questions about ISTEP+?**

- Talk to teachers and counselors at your school.
- Visit [www.doe.in.gov/istep](http://www.doe.in.gov/istep) or call 1-888-54-ISTEP.
- Visit [www.learnmoreindiana.org](http://www.learnmoreindiana.org) or call 1-800-992-2076.

### **My student received an Undetermined (UND), what does this mean?**

- Students who took both parts of the 2011 Spring Assessment, but whose tests cannot be positively matched receive an undetermined score (UND).
- There are a variety of reasons why a match may not have been possible. For example:
  - The school did not write the student's test number on both answer documents.
  - The school did not return the student answer documents for scoring.
  - The school sent the student answer documents to the secure inventory site instead of to the scoring site.
  - The student participated in the Applied Skills portion of the test before moving out of state.
  - The student moved to Indiana after the Applied Skills and prior to participating in the Multiple-Choice portion of the test.
  - The student is an English Language Learner (ELL) who did not participate in the English/language arts portion of the test due to Federal Flexibility (less than one year in U.S. schools).
  - The student participated in IMAST (Indiana Modified Achievement Standards Test) for one or more content areas.
- Students will not be negatively affected by these errors, as they will have their tests processed, matched and scored during the rescore window. Parents, schools and corporations will be notified in late August when the results are available. At that time parents and schools will be able to immediately access their results online.

### **How is my school affected by UND scores?**

- Students whose ISTEP+ scores are “undetermined” have been removed from school and corporation wide calculations. While state and federal laws require testing all students, there are many reasons students might get “undetermined” test results (see above). School results are now reported based only on students who have received test scores in a content area.

Indiana Department of Education, June 2011